

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are now pending in the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garbin (U.S. Pat. No. 3,265,489) in view of Reese (U.S. Pat. No. 4,375,978). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that Claims 1 and 4 claim "a pair of cross support tubular members being generally square-shaped in cross section, said pair of cross support tubular members being fixedly coupled to an intermediate section of said pair of longitudinally extending tubular members to provide cross-frame support; a plurality of support brackets being separate from said pair of cross support tubular members and generally having a notched end". Additionally, Claim 1 claims that each of the plurality of support brackets extends inwardly toward "but does not contact" the other of the pair of longitudinally extending tubular members.

Garbin, on the other hand, teaches a glass sheet bending mold having an angle-iron frame defining cross pieces 16 interconnecting longitudinally extending angle irons 14. "Each cross piece 16 carries a pair of spaced vertical posts 18. Four posts 18 are provided for the apparatus. Two of the posts support each one of a pair of shaping rails 20 or 22 of a center mold section 24 of the mold M." (Col. 4, lines 58-64). Furthermore, "[e]ach cross piece 16 also supports one or more uprights 34, extending vertically

upward from said cross piece 16. Each upright is apertured near its upper end to receive a hinge pin 36. The hinge pin extends through an aperture in a lever arm 38 to form a pivotal connection between each upright and each lever arm. Hinge pins 36 serve as hinge means for pivoting the lever arms 38.” (Col. 4, line 73 to Col. 5, line 6). It is worth noting that Garbin uses cross pieces 16 as a support for both posts 18, which support the shaping rails 20 or 22, and as the pivot axis, via hinge pin 36, about which lever arm 38 pivots. Therefore, the Examiner should understand that any change of glass shape to be formed on the rings of Garbin will necessitate a change in the pivot axis location of lever arms 38. Consequently, any change in the pivot axis location of lever arms 38 will require positional change of uprights 34 and cross piece 16. Put simply, Garbin must move cross pieces 16, posts 18, and uprights 34 for any change in glass shape or desired pivot location.

In contrast, as described in the specification and illustrated in the figures, gravity bending ring and frame assembly 10 comprise a pair of cross support tubular members 16 that interconnect between the pair of longitudinally extending tubular members to provide improved cross-frame support. Cross support tubular members 16 are separate from the plurality of bracket members 20. The plurality of bracket members 20 provides support for the pair of stationary central members 24 and outboard movable members 26, without providing cross-frame support. Therefore, it should be understood, that by using members tailored to a specific purpose, their function can be optimized. In other words, the cross support tubular members 16 of the present invention can be used to optimize cross-frame support while the plurality of bracket members 20 can be

positioned to optimize support of central stationary members 24 and pivot location of outboard movable members 26.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Garbin and Reese, either singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a pair of cross support tubular members 16 being separate from the plurality of bracket members 20, which support central stationary members 24 and outboard movable members 26. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are respectfully requested..

Claims 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garbin (U.S. Pat. No. 3,265,489) and Reese (U.S. Pat. No. 4,375,978) in view of DeAngelis (U.S. Pat. No. 4,119,428). Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garbin (U.S. Pat. No. 3,265,489) and Reese (U.S. Pat. No. 4,375,978) in view of Black (U.S. Pat. No. 3,248,201). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

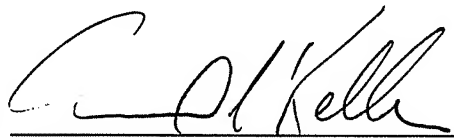
In addition to the arguments set forth above in connection with Garbin and Reese, Applicant respectfully submits that DeAngelis and Black, taken singly or in combination, fail to cure the deficiencies of Reese, in that DeAngelis and Black each fails to teach or suggest a pair of cross support tubular members 16 being separate from the plurality of bracket members 20, which support central stationary members 24 and outboard movable members 26. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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